

# WOOTTON VALLEY NEWS

FEBRUARY/MARCH 2023 NO 142

DISTRIBUTION WOOTTON BULAHDELAH

## GOANNA or LACE MONITOR (*Varanus varius*)

Some of us can remember our grandparents calling these “iguanas” because they look like the ones from South America, and now the name “goanna” has stuck. The Lace Monitor is the second largest Australian goanna and can grow to two metres. They occur from Melbourne all the way up to Cape York. If it feels threatened it will race for the nearest tree or something to climb. They love to eat birds and eggs, and if you have chooks you already know that! Young goannas are more brightly coloured.

[www.outback-australia-travel-secrets.com/goannas-monitor-lizards.html](http://www.outback-australia-travel-secrets.com/goannas-monitor-lizards.html)



## COMMUNITY CALENDAR

The details of all Events will be confirmed on Social Media and conducted in accordance with Public Health Orders. <a href="#">Wootton Community facebook group</a>	
Sat 11 Feb	• Wootton Hall/shelter shed: Foodswap midday. <i>Peter D 0478 741 111</i>
Sun 12 Feb	• Wootton Fire Brigade Shed: training, Squires Rd 8am • Brush Turkey/Hardwood Café Wootton Creative Alliance 10am <i>see p3</i>
Tue 14 Feb	• Brush Turkey Café: WCN committee meeting all welcome 10am-12
Fri 17 Feb	• Wootton Library: Community Hall, 10am to midday
Sat 25 Feb	• Wootton Hall: Community BBQ from 6pm, <i>details p2</i>
Sat 11 Mar	• Wootton Hall/shelter shed: Foodswap <i>Peter D 047 874 1111</i>
Sun 12 Mar	• Wootton Fire Brigade Shed: training, Squires Rd 8am
Tue 14 Mar	• Brush Turkey Café: WCN committee meeting all welcome 10am-12
Wed 15 Mar	<b>**Copy deadline for Wootton Valley News**</b>
Fri 17 Mar	• Wootton Library: Community Hall, 10am to midday
Sat 25 Mar	• Wootton Hall: Autumn Community Dinner from 6pm, <i>details p2</i>
Fri 31 Mar	• Brush Turkey/Hardwood Café Art Exhibition opening, <i>6pm details p2</i>

## Upcoming Events

**On Saturday 25th February 2023 from 6pm onwards there will be a Community BBQ held at the Wootton Hall.**

Please feel free to come and join in this community event and catch up with the Wootton locals for a barbie and a drink. Food will be available for a gold coin donation (fund raising) so just bring your drinks and a smile along.

**The first Autumn Community Dinner will be held at 6pm on Saturday 25th March 2023 at the Wootton Hall.**

Come along for the annual gathering and take the chance to have a chat and catch up with your community. As always great food and good company will be on offer.

**31 March to 23 April  
the Wootton Creative Alliance will be staging an  
exhibition of works in the Hardwood Espresso/Brush Turkey Café.**

The exhibition will launch at 6pm Friday 31st March 2023 and will run until Sunday 23rd April 2023. The theme of the exhibition will be 'Anything Birds'.

All works will be by local Wootton community artists.

**\*\*\* Save the date and please keep an eye out for upcoming emails and social media posts about these events. \*\*\***

### Working Bee – Saturday 10.12.22

We had a very good turn out again for the last working bee of 2022. We were able to get lots of maintenance and repairs completed on the day. It's always good to have the community giving their time to contribute to the upkeep of the facility and shows the great community spirit there is in the Wootton area.



*A big thank you* to all those who came on the day for giving up their time and making a difference to our community.



## Wootton Library open 3rd Friday each month 10am to midday

The **Wootton Creative Alliance (WCA)** is a group of local **Wootton artists and craftspeople** who have been staging exhibitions and art shows for the last 8-10 months. We proudly work in collaboration with the Wootton Community Network (WCN) and have held several exhibitions of artists in residence throughout 2022 and the **Everything Wood show in December** last year. The WCA would like to thank the WCN for their support and the possibility it provides for local artists and creators. **2023 is going to be an exciting year for this group with several events scheduled at multiple times and locations throughout the year.**



### **NOW SHOWING at Great Lakes Paddocks Gallery**

The WCA currently has a showcase of works from artists for sale in the Gallery of the Great Lakes Paddocks Winery at Wootton (see photos). These works are available for viewing and purchase during the Winery opening hours and at major events. *The WCA would like to thank Great Lakes Paddocks for their support with this venue and the opportunity it provides.*



### **COMING SOON 'Anything Birds' Exhibition: 31 March through 23 April 2023 Hardwood Espresso / Brush Turkey Café – Wootton**

This exhibition will provide artists/craftspeople based in Wootton the opportunity to showcase their works based on the theme of 'Anything Birds'. We expect there will be works from a large variety of mediums and methods in this exhibition. The exhibition welcomes **young children to elders, novice to professional** to contribute their creations. All types of works are welcome as long as they relate to the theme e.g. birds, flight, feathers, nests, eggs etc. **If you are interested in participating in this event, please email the WCA at [wcalliance2423@gmail.com](mailto:wcalliance2423@gmail.com) to apply.**

The WCA meets on monthly basis with the **next meeting 10am on Sunday 12.2.23** at the Hardwood Espresso Café at Wootton. *Please come along or email us at [wcalliance2423@gmail.com](mailto:wcalliance2423@gmail.com) if you are interested in being involved.*



### **Winter is Coming...prepare your gardens now.**

Build a compost heap with grass clippings, weeds and plenty of dung from cows, chooks and horses. Start your seedlings and prepare permanent beds for fruit/nut trees. Be sure to enjoy all your tomatoes & zucchinis!

**Next Seed Circle meeting 10am Saturday 18 Feb at the Bulahdelah War Memorial Hall.**

Wootton Library open 3rd Friday each month 10am to midday

## **BASIC FIREFIGHTER TRAINING COURSE STARTING SOON IN WOOTTON...**

**Contact Captain Adam Garnett  
0428 272 629 to find out more and  
put some wet stuff on the hot stuff....**



**Wootton Rural Fire Brigade** is a volunteer brigade helping protect the community from fire and other emergencies, based in the fire shed in Squires Road. The Brigade has a small membership and you can help your community by BECOMING A MEMBER. Free membership and training!

**Wootton** Please contact us if you are preparing to burn off.

Captain **Adam Garnett** 0428 272 629

Permit Officers **Mike Coventry** 0407 458 167; **Renee Spiteri** 4997 7149

[Permits are currently required for all fires in the MidCoast LGA](#)

**YOU MUST CONTACT RFS AND YOUR NEIGHBOURS  
AT LEAST 24 hrs BEFORE LIGHTING UP**

Use these links to [FIND OUT MORE](#)  
and to [USE THE ONLINE NOTIFICATION FORM](#)

**NO SLASHING/MOWING/WELDING ON HIGH RISK DAYS**



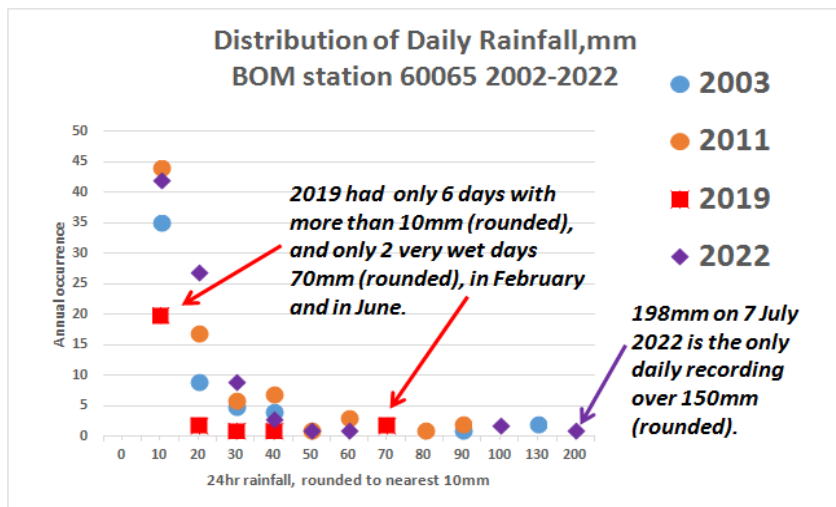
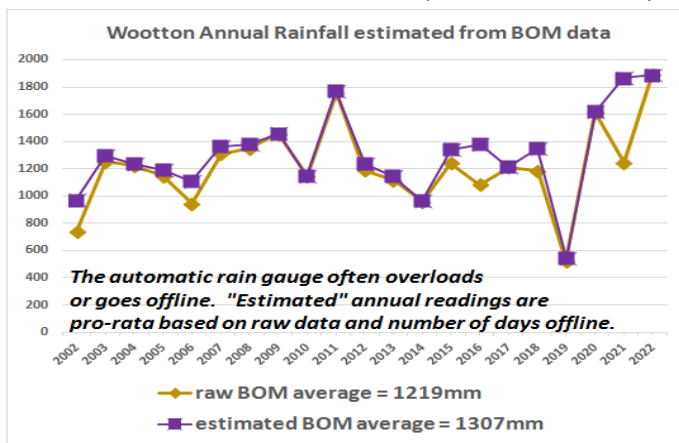
## The Rain in Wootton falls mainly from the sky...

2022 brought even more rain than 2021, with a **total of 1888mm** making it the **wettest year since 2002** when the Bureau of Meteorology (BOM) commissioned an automatic gauge at Wootton. 2022 also takes first place for Wootton's **highest one-day rainfall of 198mm recorded on 7 July 2022**. Locals know that it was even wetter than that on many properties! The BOM gauge often overloads or goes offline, and local readings show 2021 was wetter than 2022 on Newmans Rd (*Mike B & Steve S*)

*The first graph shows total annual rainfall records from BOM's gauge with pro-rata estimates for days it was offline.*

*The second graph shows the range of one-day*

*readings in the driest year 2019, compared to the 3 years of highest one-day rainfalls—2003, 2011 and 2022. [www.bom.gov.au/climate/data/](http://www.bom.gov.au/climate/data/) Fred F*



**\$\$\$\$\$\$\$ Are you eligible for assistance with BOTTLED GAS and ELECTRICITY BILLS?** Conditions apply for the NSW “Family Energy Rebate” (up to \$180), “Gas Rebate” (\$121) and “Seniors Energy Rebate” (\$200). Visit **Service NSW** in Taree or Forster, or online [www.service.nsw.gov.au/services/concessions-rebates-and-assistance](http://www.service.nsw.gov.au/services/concessions-rebates-and-assistance)

**Mid Coast 2 Tops** present **Eco Burn Edu workshops**, giving our community knowledge in bushfire ecology, risk management and property protection.

**Wang Wauk, Bucca Wauka and Bunyah** is on

**Friday 17th February 2023**

**Coolongolook** is on **Monday 6th March 2023**

[www.eventbrite.com/cc/eco-burn-education-program-1090159](http://www.eventbrite.com/cc/eco-burn-education-program-1090159)



[www.facebook.com/karuahgreatlakeslandcare/](https://www.facebook.com/karuahgreatlakeslandcare/)

KGLL events *Joël Dunn* [joel.kgl.landcare@gmail.com](mailto:joel.kgl.landcare@gmail.com)

Landcare newsletter *Jessica Leck* [rlc@midcoast2topslandcare.org](mailto:rlc@midcoast2topslandcare.org)

**“So you want to live on a Farm?” Dinner Thursday 23 Feb, Bulahdelah**

During the last few years there has been a concerted push from people in our cities to move to the country to escape COVID, find a better

lifestyle or live a simpler and more wholesome life for themselves and their families. And this trend is likely to continue.



**Is this you?**

Join us for a long table dinner with guest speakers where you can learn about life on a farm with tips and techniques for farming enterprises on the coast.

[www.eventbrite.com/e/so-you-want-to-live-on-a-farm-dinner-tickets-507008113917](http://www.eventbrite.com/e/so-you-want-to-live-on-a-farm-dinner-tickets-507008113917)

**WATCH OUT FOR “PINK-EYE”** Grass seeds, dust and other irritants can scratch your animals eyes leading to serious infection. Early signs of PinkEye are a watery discharge from the eye or blinking. If untreated, animals **may become blind and unsaleable.**

[READ MORE HERE](#)



**LLS Rates are back, now read the fine print...** After several years of relief, LLS rates are now being levied for rural landholders across NSW. But make sure you read the notice carefully before paying - have they calculated them properly? What do they do if part of your land is forest not grazing pasture? **You have 28 days to appeal...**

Locally, **Hunter LLS have a new publication to help landholders** better understand their obligations and responsibilities in managing the land. [www.lls.nsw.gov.au/regions/hunter/articles,-publications-and-plans/hunter-small-property-landholder-guide](http://www.lls.nsw.gov.au/regions/hunter/articles,-publications-and-plans/hunter-small-property-landholder-guide)

#### **BANKING DETAILS FOR WOOTTON COMMUNITY NETWORK**

Same banking details apply for all **MEMBERSHIPS** (\$20pp) and **EVENT BOOKINGS**, please direct deposit to **Wootton Community Network Inc.**

- **CBA Forster BSB 062669 Account No 10250496**

- Reference = Name and Reason eg *"Joe Blow mship"* or *"Jill Doe Feb dinner"*

Please email when paid to notify the Treasurer [wootonguesthouse@gmail.com](mailto:wootonguesthouse@gmail.com)

**Wootton Directory** contains important local contacts. *Always dial 000 for Emergency.*



#### **Wootton Community Network**

President: Sue Williams 0438 433 063

Secretary: Robyn Piper

Treasurer: Leanne Wright 4997 7201

Email: [secwootton@gmail.com](mailto:secwootton@gmail.com)

[FoodSwap](#): Peter Dixon 0478741111

#### **Bookings—all facilities**

*Celebrating something special? Running a Course or a Market?*

*Getting people together?*

Sue Williams 0438 433 063

#### **Wootton Rural Fire Brigade**

Captain: Adam Garnett 0428 272 629

Sen Dep Capt: Bernard Carran 0409684177

[www.facebook.com/woottonrfs](http://www.facebook.com/woottonrfs)

#### **Midcoast Fire Control**

Burnoff notifications 1300 643 262  
(24hour prior notice)

#### **Karuah Great Lakes Landcare**

[joel.kgl.landcare@gmail.com](mailto:joel.kgl.landcare@gmail.com)

Joël Dunn 0401 932 533

#### **Wootton - Topi Topi Sustainable Farming Group**

Fred Fetherston 0427 461 101

**MidCoast Council:** 6591 7222

**State Forests** Wauchope 6585 3744

**Bulahdelah Police:** 4940-7470

**State Emergency Service** 132 500

#### **Local Land Services**

*Wild dogs* Laurie Mullen 0407 785 007

*Rural Resilience Group*

Peter Brown 0437 671 459

**National Parks & Wildlife** 6591 0300

**Fawna Wildlife Rescue** 6581-4141

**Electricity Essential Energy** 13 20 80

#### **Wootton Justices of the Peace (JPs)**

Warren Richardson 0407 146 373

Paul Spiteri 0407 298 954

Renee Spiteri 0407 516 089

Gary Cross 0418 251 090

**Bulahdelah Waste Facility  
opening hours**

**Tues 1-5pm, Fri 12-4, Sun 10-2**

# DIRECTORY

New advertisers Welcome, contact Leanne at [woottonguesthouse@gmail.com](mailto:woottonguesthouse@gmail.com).

Accommoda-

Real Estate

Transport

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Farm Services

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## Wootton Guest House

Too many visitors? 4 air conditioned bedrooms with en-suites and balconies. Reasonable rates. Contact Peter & Leanne 4997 7201 0407 974 420

## Ede's Real Estate Pty Ltd since 1956

For all your Real Estate needs in Wootton, Bulahdelah and surrounding areas. *Agent/ Agency Award Winners '18,'19,'20,'21 & 2022* LOCAL AGENT 4997 4566 0408 492 883 Remember Choosing Ede's is choosing success [edes@edes.com.au](mailto:edes@edes.com.au) [www.edes.com.au](http://www.edes.com.au)

## RPS Enterprises - "Bulahdelah Buses"

You require the transport we do the driving. Luxury Air conditioned seat belted buses available for wedding guest transport, winery trips, concerts, sporting events. Call Paul and Renee Spiteri to discuss your transport needs. 4997 7149 or 0407 298 954

## Tim McDonnell Lic no. 14660

Plumbing, Draining, Roofing Guttering Water tanks, Gas fitting Wootton & all areas - 0418 682 199

## Bulahdelah Post Office Mon-Fri 9am-5pm.

Bank@Post personal and business banking, passports, gift cards, phones, variety of gifts, now in store lotto & instant scratchies. 4997 4283

## C & E Mobile Mechanical

Log book & general service, brakes, steering, suspension, electrical repairs, welding, breakdown assist. MVRL58530. Craig Huggett—0410 655 920

## B&H Rural Contracting

Variety of agriculture & farming services, Machine operator, Animal husbandry, Vertebrate pest control, Fire mitigation and much more. Phone: 0401 312 877 email: [info@bhruralcontracting.com.au](mailto:info@bhruralcontracting.com.au)

## Jo Lyons Photography

Professional Photographer for People Whose Kids Have Four Legs. Dog and Family photography. Purpose built studio in Wootton offering the ultimate studio/outdoor experience. 0412 617 928

[www.jolyonsphotography.com](http://www.jolyonsphotography.com)

## Liarne's Hair and Beauty

A private home salon. All ladies and mens hairdressing. Waxing, relaxation facials, lash and brow tinting. Air conditioning, eftpos facilities. Tuesday to Friday 9am to 5pm 0412 833 700

## Yoga Classes with Naomi Patton

Wootton Hall. Mondays 9-10am we unwind with a gentle yin/restorative class, suitable for everyone, even those nursing injuries. Wednesdays from 9.15-10.45am it's an active Hatha class where we get moving. All welcome. 0414 387 008

## Celebrant—Karen George

Specialising in weddings, renewal of wedding vows and commitment ceremonies. Contact— [caringcelebrancy@hotmail.com](mailto:caringcelebrancy@hotmail.com) 0422 867 572

## Minibrae Dogstayz - Minibrae GroomDayz

All-breeds Dog Grooming/Clipping is now available to non boarding clients, professional 30+ years experience, appointment essential. Luxury Dogstayz, non kennelling dog boarding, the best of care in the best of comfort.

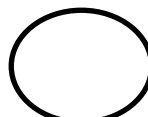
[www.minibrae.com](http://www.minibrae.com)



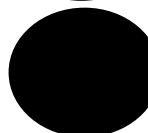
## MEMBERSHIPS \$20pp

Visit <https://wootton.org.au> to join or see page 7 for direct deposit details

## MOON PHASES



FULL MOON  
6 Feb & 7 Mar



NEW MOON  
20 Feb & 22 Mar